

DOCKET NO.: 155698.01/MSFT-0262
Application No.: 09/839,784
Office Action Dated: March 27, 2006

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

In the present application, claims 1-11 and 13-30 are pending. Claims 1, 15, 28 and 29 are independent claims from which claims 2-11 and 13-14, 16-27 and 30 respectively depend. Claims 1, 5, 8, 14-15, 23 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horstmann, U.S. Patent No. 6,363,356 in view of Newman et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,983,245, Chanos et al., US 2002/01020507A1 and further in view of Perkowski, US2005/0251458A1. Claims 2-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Carolan, U.S. Patent No. 6,753,887 and further in view of Chanos. Applicants assume that as claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, Perkowski was inadvertently omitted. Claims 6-7 and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Bates et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,037,935 and Chanos. Applicants assume that as claims 6-7 depend from claim 1, and 24-26 depend from claim 23, Perkowski was inadvertently omitted. Claims 9-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Philyaw, U.S. Patent No. 6,636,896 and Chanos. Applicants assume that as claims 9-10 depend from claim 1, Perkowski was inadvertently omitted. Claims 11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Chanos. Applicants assume that as claims 11 and 13 depend from claim 1, Perkowski was inadvertently omitted. Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Bukszar (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,916) and Chanos. Applicants assume that as claim 16 depends from claim 15, Perkowski was inadvertently omitted. Claims 17-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Bukszar and further in view of Philyaw and Chanos. Applicants assume that as these claims depend from claim 15, Perkowski was inadvertently omitted. Claim 28 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,732 in view of Newman and further in view of Chanos and Perkowski. Claims 29-30 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of

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Chanos and Perkowski. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-6, 8, 10-11, 13, 15, 28 and 29 will have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the original application as filed on page 5 lines 6-19, and elsewhere in the specification. No new matter has been added.

While Applicants do not agree with the grounds for rejection and responses to argument, in the interest of furthering prosecution, Applicants have amended the independent claims to more particularly point out the invention, which renders the stated grounds for rejection moot. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, define over the prior art.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 5, 8, 14-15, 23 and 27 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Chanos and Perkowski. Applicants submit that claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable because Horstmann Newman Chanos and Perkowski do not disclose or suggest all the features of Applicants' amended claim 1.

Amended claim 1 recites:

A method of branding a computer program comprising the acts of:
receiving a triggering event registering a computer program that renders encoded digital content, wherein registering the program indicates that a first copy of the computer program has been downloaded to a first computing device from a distributor of the renderable digital content and that said first copy is to be branded with information associated with the distributor of the renderable digital content, the computer program further comprising an embedded limited-function web browser, wherein the embedded limited-function web browser provides a content-shopping feature that displays a directory of distributors and automatically connects to an Internet website of a selected distributor from the directory;

transmitting data identifying the distributor from which the first copy was downloaded to the first computing device;

receiving acknowledgement from said first computing device; and

providing branding instructions to said first computing device in response to receiving the acknowledgement, said branding instructions comprising placing the

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distributor from which the first copy was downloaded first in the directory, a supplier of said computer program controlling which renderable digital content-providing distributors are displayed in said directory based on agreements between said supplier and said content-providing distributors.

(emphasis added).

Neither Horstmann nor Newman nor Chanos, alone or in combination disclose or suggest at least the non-obvious italicized features of amended claim 1. Horstmann discloses a mechanism whereby a referrer may be identified at the time of purchase in a download-then-pay system. A referrer identifier is added to software when the software is downloaded. When purchased, the referrer identifier is retrieved from the computer to which the content was downloaded. "Marking the software product with the identity of the referrer ensures that credit is given to the referrer when and if the software product is purchased." (See Horstmann column 3, lines 5-8). Newman discloses a method for generating universal resource locator links in a graphical user interface based HTML file. Once a picture object or text is selected, a menu is presented of the most recently used URLs. Chanos discloses an advertisement that enables a consumer to find, request or send information related to an advertised product or service. Perkowski is directed to serving UPC number information associated with consumer products registered with the system and URLs related to those products.

In contrast, in Applicants' claim 1, in response to branding instructions associated with a distributor of content to be rendered by downloaded content-rendering/content-shopping software having an embedded limited function browser, the distributor is displayed first in a directory of electronic content-providing entities displayed in the content-shopping feature of the computer program. Furthermore, the event triggering the branding operation is the registration of the content-rendering software.

Similarly, Applicants' amended claim 15 recites analogous features. Hence, for the reasons cited above, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the § 103 rejections of claims 1 and 15, and claims 5, 8, 14, 23 and 27 which depend therefrom.

Claims 2-4 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Carolan, Chanos and Perkowski. Applicants submit that

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claims 2-4 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 1 for the reasons described above. Carolan does not cure the deficiencies of Horstmann, Newman, Chanos and Perkowski. Carolan describes a method to enable branding indicia of a selected ISP to be presented through a user interface associated with client software. As Horstmann, Newman, Carolan, Chanos and Perkowski alone or in combination fail to disclose or suggest all the features of Applicants' amended claim 1, from which claims 2-4 depend, Applicants submit that claims 2-4 are allowable and request the withdrawal of the 103 rejection of claims 2-4.

Claims 6-7 and 24-26 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Bates, Chanos and Perkowski. Applicants submit that claims 6-7 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 1 and claims 24-26 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 15 for the reasons described above. Bates does not cure the deficiencies of Horstmann, Newman, Chanos and Perkowski. Bates is directed to a web page exploration indicator that displays to a user the degree of exploration for a web page or for one or more links on a web page. Bates does not disclose or suggest at least the italicized features of amended claim 1 and analogously in claim 15. As Horstmann, Newman, Bates, Chanos and Perkowski alone or in combination fail to disclose or suggest all of the above discussed features of Applicants' claims 1 and 15, from which claims 6-7 and 24-26 depend, Applicants submit that claims 6-7 and 24-26 are allowable and request the withdrawal of the 103 rejection of these claims.

Claims 9-10 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Philyaw, Chanos and Perkowski. Applicants submit that claims 9-10 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 1 for the reasons described above. Philyaw does not cure the deficiencies of Horstmann, Newman, Chanos and Perkowski. Philyaw discloses a method for connecting a user PC on a user node on a primary network to a remote node on the network. As Horstmann, Newman, Philyaw, Chanos and Perkowski fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Applicants' amended claim 1, from which claims 9-10 depend, Applicants submit that claims 9-10 are allowable and request the withdrawal of the 103 rejection of these claims.

Claims 11 and 13 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Chanos and Perkowski. Applicants submit that claims 11 and 13 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 1 for the reasons described above.

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As Horstmann, Newman, Chanos and Perkowski fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Applicants' amended claim 1, from which claims 11 and 13 depend, Applicants submit that claims 11 and 13 are allowable and request the withdrawal of the 103 rejection of these claims.

Claim 16 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Bukszar, Chanos and Perkowski. Applicants submit that claim 16 is allowable as depending from allowable claim 15 for the reasons described above. Bukszar does not cure the deficiencies of Horstmann, Newman, Chanos and Perkowski. Bukszar discloses a system for displaying and accessing information such as HTML web pages. As Horstmann, Newman, Bukszar, Chanos and Perkowski fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Applicants' claim 15, from which claim 16 depends, Applicants submit that claim 16 is allowable and request the withdrawal of the 103 rejection of this claim.

Claims 17-22 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Bukszar and further in view of Philyaw, Chanos and Perkowski. Applicants submit that claims 17-22 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 15 for the reasons described above. As described above, neither Bukszar nor Philyaw cure the deficiencies of Horstmann, Newman and Perkowski. As Horstmann, Newman, Bukszar, Philyaw, Chanos and Perkowski, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the above discussed features of Applicants' claim 15, from which claims 17-22 depend, Applicants submit that claims 17-22 are allowable and request the withdrawal of the 103 rejection of these claims.

Claim 28 has been rejected as unpatentable over Kikinis et al. in view of Newman, Chanos and Perkowski. Amended claim 28 recites:

A method for distributing a variation of software through one of a plurality of entities, comprising:

providing a standardized version of software from a first entity and an indication that said standardized version of software is to be branded, *wherein the indication comprises a triggering event comprising registration of a content-rendering program* said first entity comprising a distributor of content to be rendered by a content-rendering program, the content-rendering program comprising a content-shopping feature for purchasing content to be rendered; and

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providing a customized version of said software as a function of one of a plurality of entities, said customized version of said software being branded by placing said first entity first in a list of content-providing entities displayed in the content-shopping feature of said content-rendering program, a supplier of said computer program controlling which content-providing entities are displayed in said list based on agreements between said supplier and said content-providing entities.

(emphasis added). Kikinis describes a vending machine that dispenses software to a PDA in one of several modes. The version of software dispensed to the PDA may be based on a unique feature of the PDA, such as serial number or other code. Newman discloses a method for generating universal resource locator links in a graphical user interface based HTML file. Once a picture object or text is selected, a menu is presented of the most recently used URLs. Chanos discloses an advertisement that enables a consumer to find, request or send information related to an advertised product or service. Perkowski is directed to serving UPC number information associated with consumer products registered with the system and URLs related to those products.

As Kikinis, Newman, Chanos and Perkowski, alone or in combination fail to disclose or suggest at least the non-obvious, italicized features of Applicants' claim 28, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the 103 rejection of claim 28.

Claims 29-30 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Horstmann in view of Newman and further in view of Carolan, Chanos and Perkowski. Independent claim 29 recites features analogous to those recited in claim 1, hence Applicants submit that claim 29 is allowable as is claim 30 which depends therefrom and respectfully request the withdrawal of the 103 rejection of claims 29 and 30.

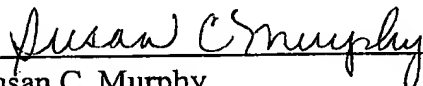
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In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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